

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 034896 TOSEC 020035  
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 MCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PC-05 SY-05 USSS-00  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 PA-02 PRS-01 L-03 H-02  
SCSE-00 SCA-01 DODE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00  
CCO-00 /063 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:DWCOX:AF  
APPROVED BY M/CT:AMB. HECK  
S/S-O:AWOTTO

-----160041Z 055691 /63

O 160017Z FEB 77 ZFF5  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE  
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 034896 TOSEC 020035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, CO

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PCV IN COLOMBIA -- TEXT OF FEBRUARY  
15 NOON BRIEFING

REF: STATE 34125, TOSEC 20019

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FEBRUARY 15 EXCHANGE BETWEEN  
DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMEN AND PRESS RE KIDNAPPING OF RICHARD  
STARR:

BEGIN TEXT

QUESTION: MR. BROWN, COULD YOU TELL US WHERE THINGS  
ARE WITH THIS YOUNG MAN WHO HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED IN COLOMBIA?

ANSWER: I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE ON THAT, DAVID. WE  
HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER BY THE NAME  
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OF RICHARD CHARLES STARR WAS KIDNAPPED IN COLOMBIA ON  
FEBRUARY 14TH. REPORTEDLY, GUERRILLAS BELONGING TO THE  
FARC -- THAT'S THE ACRONYM -- REVOLUTIONARY COLOMBIAN ARMED  
FORCES -- SEIZED MR. STARR DURING AN ATTACK ON A POLICE  
POST LOCATED IN THE MACARENA MOUNTAINS, SOUTH OF THE TOWN  
OF VILLA VICENCIO. DO YOU NEED THE SPELLING ON THAT,  
DAVID? V-I-L-L-A V-I-C-E-N-C-I-O. MR. STARR IS A 30-YEAR-

OLD BOTANIST. HE COMES FROM EDMONDS, WASHINGTON. HE HAS BEEN IN COLOMBIA SINCE JUNE OF 1976, AND WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON HIS WHEREABOUTS AT THIS TIME.

QUESTION: PRESUMABLY, THIS FARC ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD SEIZED THIS GUY, OR WHAT? HAVE THEY MADE ANY DEMANDS OR -

ANSWER: THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEMANDS AND I AM NOT SURE WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO WHO ACTUALLY SEIZED THEM. ALL I KNOW IS THAT, REPORTEDLY, HE WAS SEIZED. I KNOW OF NO ANNOUNCEMENT COMING OUT OF THAT GROUP OR WHO REPORTED THAT HE WAS SEIZED BY THE GROUP.

QUESTION: IS THERE A TASK FORCE OR A SPECIAL GROUP SET UP HERE TO DEAL WITH THIS CASE?

ANSWER: NORMALLY, THE OFFICE HANDLING SUCH MATTERS -- THE OFFICE FOR COMBATING TERRORISM -- WILL GET INVOLVED. THERE IS WHAT YOU WOULD DESCRIBE AS A QTEMINI TASK FORCE UNQTE IN OPERATION. IT IS THE NORMAL PRACTICE TO COORDINATE ALL EFFORTS IN ONE SPOT.

QUESTION: THERE IS NO --

ANSWER: WE ARE, OF COURSE, IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES.

QUESTION: NO RANSOM DEMANDS, OR POLITICAL DEMANDS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE NO DEMANDS AT ALL.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU HAD ANY INDICATION WHAT THE COLOMBIANS MAY BE TRYING TO DO?

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ANSWER: NO, I HAVE NO INDICATION OF THAT.

QUESTION: MILITARY ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: WHO REPORTS THAT THIS PARTICULAR GROUP SEIZED THEM?

ANSWER: I DO NOT HAVE ANY SOURCE FOR THAT MARVIN.

QUESTION: BUT YOU SAY A REPORT WAS RECEIVED.

ANSWER: YES. REPORTEDLY -- THAT IS AN INITIAL REPORT FROM OUR EMBASSY, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER SOURCE FOR IT.

QUESTION: WHAT IS IT BASED ON? THE FACT THAT THEY DIDN'T SHOW UP SOMEWHERE?

ANSWER: IT IS NOT CONFIRMED. LET'S PUT IT THAT WAY. I DON'T KNOW.

QUESTION: SO IT COULD VERY WELL BE THAT THIS GROUP IS NOT  
HOLDING HIM AT ALL?

ANSWER: MY INFORMATION IS THAT REPORTEDLY THEY ARE, AND I  
CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY MORE INFORMATION ON THE SOURCE OF THE  
REPORT, MARVIN. IT IS FROM OUR EMBASSY.

QUESTION: THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT HE WAS KIDNAPPED --  
BUT THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION THAT IT WAS THIS PARTICULAR  
GROUP WHO KIDNAPPED HIM?

ANSWER: THAT IS CORRECT. THIS HAPPENED YESTERDAY SO IT  
IS STILL FAIRLY EARLY ON. END TEXT.

HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Message ID:** 87e4a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3305072  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KIDNAPPING OF PCV IN COLOMBIA -- TEXT OF FEBRUARY 15 NOON BRIEFING  
**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, CASC, CO, PC, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)  
**To:** BOGOTA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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